1996 and since then only nine applications have been received from Harmonium Players in Carnatic music for audition. Solo performance in All India Radio is allowed only to those artists with "A" Grade or above and since there is no "A" Grade artist in Harmonium, no Solo performance has been allowed. All India Radio have also clarified that there is no instrument called modern/electronic Harmonium. With a view to attract the talents, the payment to artists of electronic effect instruments like keyboard, synthesiser etc. has been recently revised.

(c) No, Sir.

Retirement of Members from Prasar Bharati Board

1903. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines followed for retiring one-third members of Prasar Bharati Board after every two years;

(b) whether the guidelines were followed while retiring the two members whose names were announced recently; and

(c) the criteria followed for selection of new members of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) On the advice of Attorney General, following criteria were taken into consideration while curtailing the term of office of some of the part-time Members in order to retire one-third of them every second year:—

(i) the experience, expertise and background of the Members;

(ii) their contribution to the effective and harmonious working of the Board;

(iii) relative indispensability of part-time Members at the present stage and the necessity of taking the benefit of their services by their retention for a further period of time; and

(iv) all other relevant circumstances.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As provided under section 4(1) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, the part-time Members are to be appointed on the recommendation of a Committee, consisting of Chairman, Council of States, Chairman, Press Council of India and a nominee of the President. As per section 4(3) of the Act, the part-time members shall be persons of eminence in public life.

Doordarshan and Air Stations in New Districts of M.P.

†1904. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the newly formed districts of Madhya Pradesh where the Doordarshan and AIR stations have not been set up;

(b) whether any scheme regarding setting up of the same in these district headquarters is under consideration;

(c) if so, by when these would be set up; and

(d) whether any demand has been made by the State Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The network planning of AIR & Doordarshan is done with a view to cover a target area and not to set up Doordarshan/AIR kendra in each and every district in the States. All the districts of Madhya Pradesh including the newly created districts are covered partially or fully by a local or neighbouring transmitter. Six newly created district of Badwani, Kawardha, Dhamtari, Mahasamund, Dindori and Umaria are without a TV/AIR transmitter.

(b) and (c) Following schemes are under implementation: (i) One LPT each at Badwani and Sindhwa in Badwani district and (ii) One LPT at Pandaria in Kawardha district. These projects will be completed within the next financial year. There is no proposal for setting up new radio stations at any of these districts.

(d) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.